

by operating desired keys of a portable phone. For example, "A, B, and C", "D, E, and F", ... "W, X, Y and Z" are assigned to number 2, number 3, ..., number 9 numeral keys respectively. In the case that "E" is to be entered, the number 3 numeral key is pushed twice, and in the case that "Z" is to be entered, the number 9 numeral key is pushed four times.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 1-15 as follows:

In detail, in the case of character input by use of the key board apparatus, it is required to secure a space for placing the key board such as a desk, and the key board cannot be used without space. Furthermore, it is difficult to enter the character quickly for a person who does not remember the key arrangement, thus the key board can be used by not everyone. Furthermore, in the case of character input by use of the portable phone, it is difficult to enter the character quickly because the key operation is required many times. Furthermore, in the case of the controller for game machines, it takes a long time to move a cursor to a desired character because the cursor is moved by operating a plurality of keys, and also it is difficult to enter the character quickly.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 8, lines 2-8 as follows:

The character input apparatus 2 shown in FIG. 1 is contained in a box 1 having a small size that is portable and fits in hand. The box 1 is provided with operation switches 4, 5, and 6 that are used for game operation. Respective different key operations are assigned to these operation switches 4, 5, and 6 for each application used.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 17, lines 20-23 as follows:

The above-mentioned character input apparatus may be used not only for the game pad but also for a portable phone, personal computer, car navigation system, audio system, and digital camera.

In the Claims

Please rewrite Claim 1 as follows:

(Twice Amended) 1. A character input apparatus comprising:

an operation unit;

a support that supports the operation unit so as to be inclinable;

a first detection unit that generates a different signal corresponding to an inclination direction of the operation unit;